

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December  
1948





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# RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

# ANNUAL REPORT

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*by*

E. N. H. GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
RUNCORN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS

## OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts
- (2) Medical Superintendent, Dutton Isolation Hospital (up to 5th July, 1948)
- (3) From 1st June, 1948—Divisional Medical Officer of Health  
(Runcorn Division)

## Divisional School Medical Officer

E. N. H. GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.  
(Office Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186  
Home Tel. No.: Frodsham 2154)

## Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors :

G. W. LLOYD, R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Appleton (No. 2 District)  
Certified Plumber, City and Guilds  
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I.)  
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (Liverpool University)

Tel. Nos.—Depot: Stockton Heath 1024  
Home: Stockton Heath 180

D. BOOTHMAN, M.S.I.A., Frodsham (No. 1 District)  
National Certificate in Building  
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)  
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)  
Tel. Nos.—Office: Frodsham 2186  
Home: Frodsham 2219

## Pupil Sanitary Inspectors :

J. ANDREWS (returned from H.M. Forces, August, 1947)  
D. CARLISLE (resigned May, 1948)  
P. MOSS (joined H.M. Forces November, 1947)

## Clerical Duties :

H. BRIDGES (transferred to Divisional Health Office, 5th July, 1948)  
MISS S. DUTTON (resigned 29th December, 1948)  
MRS. B. GOLDER (appointed 1st October, 1948)

## Matron, Dutton Isolation Hospital :

MISS C. E. REES, S.R.N. Tel. No.: Aston 201

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# RURAL DISTRICT OF RUNCORN, 1948

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## Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR G. S. WALLWORTH, J.P.

## Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON

## Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON, *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR W. H. CAPPER, *Vice-Chairman*

Councillor Mrs. K. DEWES

Councillor H. T. NICHOLLS

„ H. HELSBY

„ H. PEACOCK

„ H. HILL

„ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD, J.P.

„ J. HUNT

„ G. S. WALLWORTH, J.P.

„ J. W. KIRKHAM

„ E. G. WHITE

„ W. S. LOOKER

„ C. WILKINSON

COUNCILLOR G. WILLIAMS

## OFFICERS:

Solicitor

Clerk of the Council:

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham

Engineer and Surveyor:

Mr. A. J. KING, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.M. & Cy.E., Frodsham

## INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN.

Gentlemen,

As in the introduction to my Annual Report for 1947, this introduction may be somewhat long, but it is deliberate, so that *all* concerned may use it for Health Education, reading it in conjunction with the main part of the Report. Extra copies of this Report can be obtained from Messrs. Mackie & Co. Ltd., The Guardian Press, Sankey Street, Warrington, on payment, if they are ordered before the end of the year.

The year 1948, as for previous years, has been a difficult one for all concerned, mainly owing to the shortage of labour and material for houses.

Dirty, overcrowded, insanitary dwellings, especially in dense areas, produce disease; we can deal with the first, i.e., DIRT, by personal cleanliness (hot baths, clean clothes, etc.), and cleanliness in the house; *the latter by frequent and thorough* "SPRING CLEANINGS" which has proved to *assist* in destroying disease germs and so prevent disease.

Excellent books to read on "Hygiene" are the St. John, Red Cross, Girl Guides' and Boy Scouts' Official Courses, which are arranged by these organisations on this subject.

As regards overcrowded and insanitary dwellings, new houses are required, *which must be a priority* in matters to be dealt with.

A Housing Survey of the District is constantly in operation and many Notices have been served on the owners of properties to make the same reasonably fit for human habitation.

Speaking generally, the health of the community is satisfactory for the moment but the shortage of houses for the people as stated above may prove serious as regards health if allowed to continue for too long. The latter have not decreased the efforts of all concerned in the essential work required in connection with Infectious Diseases, Food, Milk, Water, Housing and Health propaganda.

The Government have dealt by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health; these apply, for example, to Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for medical treatment and social security.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 (which came into force on the 5th July, 1948), the County of Cheshire was divided into 15 Public Health Divisions, e.g., the Runcorn Division (Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts); these have certain powers delegated to them by the Cheshire County Council.

The Runcorn Division has a Divisional Health Committee with myself as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional School Medical Officer) in addition to my duties as District Medical Officer of Health (Runcorn Urban and Rural districts); the various Sections of the Act dealt with (working as applicable in conjunction with the Clinical Assistant County Medical Officers of Health) are:—

Section 22: Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Section 23: Midwives Services.

Section 24: Health Visiting.

Section 25: Home Nursing.

Section 26: Immunisation and Vaccination.

Section 27: Ambulance and Transport Services (a free Ambulance and car Service for those certified by a doctor to be unfit to travel by public transport).

Section 28: Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. Health Education.

Section 51: Mental Health Services.

Immunisation and Vaccination, an emergency Ambulance Service, also Health Education, were previously the responsibility of the Local Authority, i.e., the District Councils; most of the duties involved in connection with the other Sections previously came under the direct control of the Cheshire County Council, but under the Act will require further development.

The Runcorn Divisional Health Office is situated in the Annexe of the Town Hall, Runcorn.

*The various excellent voluntary societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be made aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament by explaining these to all concerned and also informing citizens of the numerous voluntary societies which have available facilities suitable for all tastes.*

Insufficient attention is given to the prevention of accidents, especially in young persons, which could be avoided by common-sense methods; voluntary societies and School Authorities can help in this important matter with suitable lectures and discussion groups at frequent intervals. The Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Chester and Warrington) can advise where Specialist Lectures can be obtained.



The year 1948 has been a strenuous year and we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties. My sincere thanks are extended to my Council, Officials, Doctors, District Nurses, Health Visitors, and all voluntary bodies for their help, *for only by teamwork and co-operation could a satisfactory state of affairs be sustained.*

The Ministry of Food have directed the attention of all to making use of the most readily available and best foods; in fact, have done much to help us to keep fit. May we continue to learn from our experience, especially in the choosing of foods available and improving our cooking (*with proper flavour*), and, the inclusion in our daily diet of some uncooked fresh green vegetables, or, if these are cooked, we must see that this is carried out properly, otherwise valuable vitamins will be lost. Good cooking and a *varied* diet is essential to good health.

A stockpot for soups should be used more extensively. Fish, for example, herrings, are a valuable food. Fruit juices as an extra should also be used daily, otherwise a condition of scurvy may occur due to Vitamin C deficiency, e.g., orange juice, tomato, rose hips, and blackcurrant juice have much Vitamin C in them. In some cases, under medical direction, vitamin tablets are necessary, where there is a serious deficiency of vitamins.

Young children must have their daily (pasteurised) milk (liquid or dried), animal fats, e.g., cod liver oil, etc., and fruit juices, school children have their schools meals and extra milk (pasteurised) so as to prevent disease and lay a good foundation for health in the body.

Expectant mothers and certain special sick should have their extra milk (pasteurised), etc. *If milk is not pasteurised, it should be suitably heat-treated in the home.*

The following foods, some mentioned above, i.e., milk, cheese, eggs (fresh or dried), fish (especially herrings), fresh vegetables, and fruit, are the *preventive foods*, i.e., those which prevent disease; they *must* be included in the *daily* diet for all, but *especially* for children, adolescents and the special cases already quoted.

*Exposure of the skin to Sunlight (natural and artificial)*, under medical supervision, apart from the tonic effect creates valuable vitamins in the body which help to prevent disease.

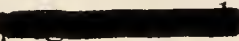
*Diphtheria immunisation* proves again and again everywhere in the world its wonderful powers to prevent this deadly disease; *all children*, preferably between the sixth and ninth month, must be properly immunised, with a further dose in just under five years' time; this can be obtained free of cost under the Council's Scheme from their own Doctors (at the Surgery or at home), failing this at the Welfare Centre, Day Nursery or School). *Prevention is better than cure.*

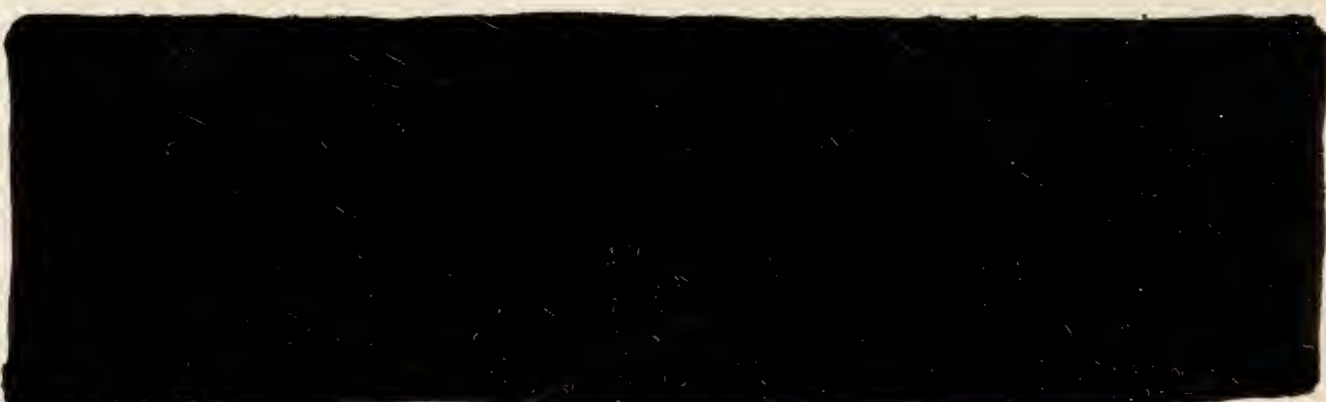
Owing to the danger of serious cases of Smallpox arriving in this country from abroad, all concerned are advised they should be vaccinated as required by the Act.

It is hoped that more Youth Hostels will become available generally, so allowing walkers and cyclists that necessary exercise and enjoyment in new and beautiful surroundings at very cheap rates. Youth Hostels are one of the many organisations available for all concerned (e.g., Scouts, Guides, etc.). Open-air exercise is cheap and essential to all.

**Health Education.**—Immunisation, Skin Disease, Dietetics and Cooking, also Venereal Disease, have all received attention by lectures, etc. The Central Council for Health Education have been of assistance in this connection. Education in health matters through voluntary societies, schools, etc., *is most important*: on application to me lectures, films, etc., can be arranged.

A pamphlet on the "COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE" is issued as required to all concerned, via voluntary societies, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Midwives and Sanitary Inspectors; it has proved most useful and instructive, especially where discussion groups, lectures, etc., have been arranged on the subject.

**Food Premises.**—Owing to the increase of food and drink infections throughout the country, particular attention has been given to Food Premises. A circular on food hygiene was sent out. (See  Appendix A.)



**Maternity Home.**—The Cheshire County Council had under consideration the provision of a Maternity Home to serve the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts, prior to 5th July, 1948, when the responsibility for this and other such Homes and Hospitals was transferred to the Liverpool Hospital Board.

**Dutton Isolation Hospital,** which after 5th July, 1948, was transferred to the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee under the Liverpool Hospital Board, is still being used as the combined hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts. The



staff has been under establishment of nurses for some time; those available have given efficient service; these include St. John Brigade Nursing Members as part-time Nurses. More full- and part-time nurses are required.

In connection with **Child Welfare**, in addition to the official Centres, etc., available for all concerned, there are many representative Voluntary Organisations concerned with this very important subject, for further information on this subject enquiries should be made at the Public Health Department, or the Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Warrington or Chester).

Further **Medical and Veterinary Research** (in addition, research on the virus diseases in plants, etc.), may solve the question of the cause and spread of the diseases caused by virus; especially the serious disease Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

The excellent insecticides, e.g., D.D.T. and "666" will help to wipe out insects, especially those which carry disease, e.g., flies, have been found to carry various serious diseases; every means should be taken to destroy these, e.g., *proper disposal of refuse*, cool fly-proof larders, fly papers, D.D.T. sprays, etc. Experiments are still being made by the Ministry of Health to produce efficient protective serum against the sometimes serious diseases in children—measles and whooping cough. Eventually these diseases should not occur.

Intensive research is being carried out by the Ministry of Health to ascertain whether German Measles (Rubella) occurring in pregnant women may cause certain malformations, etc., in the new-born; in addition the danger of acute haemolytic disease in the new-born. The cause of premature births merits further research. (It is interesting to note that most tropical diseases have a cure, due mostly to intensive research work finding the cause.)

The co-operation and help of all concerned in the Public Health Department has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. H. GRAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	45,765
(b)	Estimated population (Registrar-General)	....	....			34,230
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end 1948) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	10,359
(d)	Rateable value of the District (end 1948)	....	....			£211,674
(e)	Sum represented by one Penny rate (approx.)	....				£851
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	.75
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	3.30

## Social Conditions

Agriculture and Dairy Farming are the chief Industries of the district; other Industries are Tanneries, Electric Cable, Electric Fittings and Steel Tubes Works, Flour Mills and Jam Works. Sand Quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

**Unemployment.**—Exact statistics are not available for this area, as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour relate to the areas served by such offices, and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district. Others are employed on the railways and as porters in canal warehouses.

**Children's Homes and Sanatoria.**—There is a National Children's Home at Frodsham (270 children), one Open-air Convalescent School for Jewish Children at Norley; two Sanatoria at Manley each accommodating about 300 persons.

**Welfare Centres.**—Prior to the 5th July, 1948, the Cheshire County Council have had under consideration the provision of more Welfare Centres in the district, at present there is a Welfare Centre (fully staffed) at Helsby, Frodsham, Stockton Heath and Grappenhall.



## VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	....	....	507	283	224
Illegitimate	....	....	19	7	12
			<hr/> 526	<hr/> 290	<hr/> 236
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....				15.37
Still Births—Legitimate	....	....	9	4	5
Illegitimate	....	....	1	1	0
			<hr/> 10	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 5
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still births):					19.01.
Deaths	....	....	379	205	174
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....				11.08

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

			<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
			<i>Deaths (Live and Still Births)</i>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	....		1
			<hr/> 1
TOTAL	....	....	1.87

## Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births (18 deaths)	....	Death Rate	34.22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....		33.53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....		52.63

## Particulars of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were:

Heart Disease	....	111	( <i>Vide</i> Registrar-General)
Cancer	....	70	„

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g., Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health.

For further remarks on Cancer see page 39 (i.e., further research, early treatment, etc.).

## COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1938	31,790	13.06	12.2	41
1939	32,420	13.08	11.0	35
1940	32,790	13.2	12.8	37
1941	33,000	12.28	10.53	39
1942	33,000	14.2	11.2	29.6
1943	33,000	15.7	11.5	46.5
1944	33,000	18.24	10.55	34.54
1945	31,710	15.5	11.07	32.58
1946	32,760	16.9	11.69	32.43
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.6
1948	34,230	15.37	11.08	36.13

*Population figures for 1941-1944, estimate only.*

A table on page 36 gives the Birth Rate, Death Rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1948 and comparisons with England and Wales, London and the other great and smaller towns.

There were 227 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	....	24	16	40
„ 70-79	„ „ „	....	55	55	110
„ 80-89	„ „ „	....	24	44	68
„ 90-99	„ „ „	....	4	5	9

## Summary of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1 (a) Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida	....	Female aged 2 hours
1 (a) Debility following operation		
(b) for Congenital Stenosis of		
(c) Bile Ducts	....	Female aged 7 months
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia (b) Prematurity		Female aged 2 months
Atelectasis Neonatorum	....	Male aged 3 days
1 (a) Prematurity	....	Male aged 3 days
1 (a) Broncho-pneumonia (b) Asphyxia		
Livida (c) Pulmonary Atelectasis	....	Female aged 3 days
Acute Capillary Bronchitis	....	Male aged 3 months
Congenital Heart Disease with Acute		
Bronchitis	....	Male aged 3 months
1 (a) Meningo encephalocele		
(b) Development anomaly	....	Male aged 1 day
Congenital Heart Disease	....	Male aged 2 days

Subarachnoid Cortical Cerebral Hæmorrhage due to accidentally falling on to the floor from the knee of the person nursing her, due to the said person falling asleep					Female aged 2 months
1	(a)	Prematurity	....	....	Female aged 1 day
1	(a)	Prematurity	....	....	Male aged 1 month
1	(a)	Prematurity	....	....	Male aged 5 days
1	(a)	Prematurity	....	....	Male aged 2 hours
1	(a)	Lobar Pneumonia	....	....	Female aged 7 months
Shock and Laryngeal spasm caused by the regurgitation and inhalation of food (Accidental Death) P.M.					Male aged 8 months
1	(a)	Prematurity	....	....	Female aged 4 hours

### **Prevention of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality—Children**

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at Home.

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

## **SECTION B**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

#### **1. Public Health Officers**

The names and qualifications, districts, address and telephone are given at the beginning of the Report. In addition, Mr. Lloyd, Sanitary Inspector, has a sub-office at 22, Orchard Street, Stockton Heath.

#### **2. Facilities**

##### **(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES**

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. The Institute can supply serum for cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Anthrax, etc., in emergency.

With the facilities given by Professor D. T. Robinson, City Laboratories, 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls *so essential* in certain cases. It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of Infectious Disease and disease generally (e.g., by pathological overhauls).



Milk is sent to the County Public Health Laboratory, for examination.

V.D. specimens are sent to the City Laboratory, 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes in laboratory facilities are expected in 1949.

### (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Prior to the 5th July, 1948, two well-equipped ambulances were maintained by the local Authority. They were garaged at Dutton, in the centre of the area, whence there is easy access to all parts. One is used for infectious cases. Arrangements were in force with the Urban District for the co-ordination of ambulance services. See preface reference Section 27, Ambulance and Transport Service, National Health Service Act, 1946.

### (c) HOME NURSING (see remarks in preface—National Health Service Act, 1946)

(i) GENERAL. The whole of the area was served by Local Nursing Associations. Each employed one trained nurse. These Associations worked independently of the County Authority and did excellent work.

(ii) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious diseases in the homes.

### (d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS (see remarks in preface—National Health Service Act, 1946)

#### (1) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

##### *Child Welfare Centres—*

Methodist Sunday School, Grappenhall—Tuesdays, p.m.

Trinity Church House, Frodsham—alternate Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.

Cable Works, Helsby—alternate Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn—Wednesdays, a.m. and p.m.

*Ante-Natal Services:* Ante-natal clinic, 29, High Street, Runcorn—Thursday, 9.30 a.m. Any expectant mother may be examined twice by a Doctor of her own choice at her own home.

#### (2) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS

Methodist Sunday School, Stockton Heath—Tuesday and Friday, 2.30 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn—Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m.



## (3) TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis Dispensary, Memorial Hospital, Runcorn—Friday, 11 a.m.

## (4) DAY NURSERY, OKELL STREET, RUNCORN

Under control of the County Council. Open each day 8 a.m. (except Sundays).

(5) VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS (*free and confidential*) serving the district (under Liverpool Hospital Board after 5th July, 1948)—

*Liverpool Royal Infirmary*

Males:	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Monday and Wednesday	.... 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
	Tuesday	.... 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Thursday	.... 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	.... 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Females:	Tuesday	.... 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	.... 12 noon to 1 p.m.
	Friday	.... 1.30 p.m.

*Warrington General Hospital*

Males and Females:	Monday	.... 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Males:	Thursday	.... 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Females:	Thursday	.... 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

*Chester Royal Infirmary*

Males:	Wednesday	.... 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Saturday	.... 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Females:	Monday and Thursday	.... 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## (6) SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

Minor Ailments Clinic—Trinity Church House, Frodsham—Thursday, 2 p.m.

29, High Street, Runcorn—Monday, Thursday, Friday, 2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.

(e) HOSPITALS (under Chester and District Management Committee of the Liverpool Hospital Board after 5th July, 1948)

(a) THE RUNCORN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL is a voluntary Hospital with 32 beds staffed by the local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool.

It is primarily for the reception of surgical and accident cases.

(b) SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.—The Council has an arrangement with Warrington Corporation for the accommodation of Smallpox cases.

(c) PUERPERAL CASES are provided for by the County Council at Clatterbridge General Hospital, etc.

(d) DUTTON HOSPITAL (Dutton Institution) has accommodation for aged people.

(e) DUTTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL—47 beds—was under the control of the Runcorn Rural District Council, with a combined Committee, Runcorn Urban and Runcorn Rural District Council, up to the 5th July, 1948.

Provision is made for the employment of Specialists for any case requiring their advice and skill.

All infectious cases from Runcorn Urban District are admitted here.

Special cases of Measles and Whooping Cough can obtain Hospital treatment.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases from other areas of the County in accordance with the Scheme for co-ordination of hospital accommodation throughout the County, *if sufficient staff is available.*

(f) - There is one private Maternity Home in the area, in Grappenhall; this is visited by the representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and registered by him.

## SECTION C

### 1. Water

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, with the exception of isolated farms and houses not on a mains supply.

(ii) The mains supplies, with the exception of Helsby and Alvanley, are from other Authorities. The results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations are as follows. Parishes in the list refer to the main areas, outlying portions of Parishes may be connected to other mains.

<i>Chemical Analyses</i>	<i>Helsby Well. No treatment to Alvanley Helsby</i>	<i>Warrington Harrol Edge to Frodsham, Manley</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy to Aston, Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Norton Preston Brook, Sutton</i>	<i>Runcorn and District Water Board to Halton</i>	<i>Warrington Vyrnwy mixed to Stockton Heath Area and most other Parishes</i>
Date ....	11.8.48	8.1.46	27.2.46	16.1.47	16.11.48
Appearance ....	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Yellow colour 31 Hazen units pH 6.6	Slightly yellow clear	Clear and yellow
Reaction ....	pH 7.3	pH 7.1	pH 6.6	pH 6.9	pH 5.8
	<i>parts per 100,000</i>				
Total Solids ....	27.6	18.1	4.5	3.7	3.7
Nitrogen as free and Saline ammonia	0.0000	0.0080	0.0010	0.012	0.0005
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0008	0.003	0.0040
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.14	0.20	0.06	0.025	0.0
Chlorides as Cl.	4.1	3.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 3 hours at 27°C.	0.014	0.015	0.04	0.279	0.25
Total Hardness	22.0	10.0	2.5	3.0	2.0
Temporary Hardness	17.6	9.2	0.6	1.2	1.0
Permanent Hardness	4.4	0.8	1.9	1.8	1.0
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—	—	1.0
Date ....	9.11.48	9.11.48	20.10.48	9.11.48	9.3.48
Bacteriological examination:					
Bacteria per c.c. at 37°C.	0	0	0	0	0
Bacteria per c.c. at 22°C.	0	0	0	0	4
B. Coli per 100 c.c.	0	0	0	0	0
Total Coliform organisms per 100 c.c.	0	0	0	0	1
Class ....	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory

### Analyst's Opinion

*Helsby 11.8.48.*—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

*Warrington Harrol Edge, 8.1.46.*—This sample contains a relatively high concentration of free ammonia which may, however, be due to application of ammonia chlorine treatment, although the sample did not contain chlorine when received.

*Liverpool Vyrnwy, 27.2.46.*—The chemical and bacteriological condition of this water is satisfactory.

*Runcorn and District Water Board, 16.1.47.*—The chemical and bacteriological conditions are satisfactory.

*Warrington Vyrnwy mixed, 16.11.48.*—The chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of this sample are satisfactory. There is no evidence of excess chlorine in the water and no unusual taste could be detected.



(iii) No plumbo-solvent action is noted in any of the supplies.

(iv) Private water supplies are bacteriologically examined at least once per year. Where, as a result of such sampling, the supplies have been established as unsatisfactory, Notices advising that the water be boiled or chlorinated before drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes are sent and repeated quarterly to the owners and occupiers.

A list of all properties not on a mains supply and the quality of their existing supply was forwarded to the Ministry of Health and County Medical Officer of Health in 1945. The Council's schemes to bring mains supplies to some of these properties under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, did not receive approval for grants by the Ministry of Health.

Where farms and farm cottages are concerned, the owners are strongly advised to obtain a mains supply with the assistance of the Cheshire Agricultural Committee under the Agricultural (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1944, Sec. 5.

Two milk-producing farms with bad well supplies have been given mains supplies under such a scheme. Four other houses have been connected to mains supplies.

(v)

Parish	(a) Public Water Mains				(b) Private Supplies					
	Direct to house		Standpipes		Private Water Mains		Wells and Springs			
							Good Quality		Suspicious or unsatisfactory Quality	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Alvanley.....	77	258	2	5	—	—	2	7	3	5
Antrobus.....	201	646	1	5	—	—	2	7	10	35
Appleton.....	849	2764	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	3
Aston.....	35	120	—	—	27	87	—	—	2	4
Budworth (Great).....	103	331	6	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daresbury.....	63	201	—	—	—	—	2	7	7	24
Dutton.....	84	373	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—
Frodsham.....	1527	5020	3	10	—	—	2	6	2	13
Grappenhall.....	1752	5670	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Halton.....	424	1371	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatton.....	87	280	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	13
Helsby.....	775	2593	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingsley.....	299	1171	20	65	—	—	6	16	15	40
Manley.....	127	584	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	20
Moore.....	158	498	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norley.....	268	913	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	5
Norton.....	17	56	—	—	20	66	—	—	5	13
Preston Brook.....	100	319	—	—	1	4	—	—	10	35
Stockton Heath.....	2236	7254	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton.....	128	433	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Sutton.....	204	653	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton.....	506	1629	—	—	—	—	5	16	—	—
Whitley.....	157	516	4	13	—	—	—	—	2	6
Totals.....	10177	33653	36	117	48	157	25	80	73	223



## (2) Drainage and Sewerage

During the year a new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the parish of Sutton has received the general approval of the Ministry of Health.

The extension of Five Crosses sewer at Frodsham was completed. At Grappenhall 8 properties were connected to the sewer. Other parishes are in need of schemes and my Council, in the 10-years programme from 1945, resolved to carry out the following:—

1. Frodsham—installation of new pumping plant at sewage pumping station.
- 2) Helsby—new intercepting sewer and sewage disposal works extension.
3. Great Budworth—sewers and sewage disposal works.
4. Stretton—sewer extension and pumping station.
5. Acton Grange sewage outfall works extensions, Moore sewer extensions and pumping station and Appleton sewer extension.
6. Kingsley and Norley—sewers and sewage disposal works.
7. Alvanley—sewer extensions.

## 3. Rivers and Streams

Pollution of streams and ditches tends to increase owing to the erection of new houses, improved sanitary appliances to existing houses and improved milk and dairy technique in parishes without sewers. Owners are advised on the best type of treatment of the sewage in septic tanks and filters for each individual property. Where such properties are in groups, the only final satisfactory solution is the provision of a sewer and sewage disposal works. Liquor from cowsheds presents a particularly difficult problem where it is not collected and returned to the land as manure.

Grappenhall Tannery Co. now discharges its effluents after pre-treatment into the sewers—the C.W.S., Cliffe Lane Tannery also at Grappenhall is constructing pre-treatment works to the same end.

## 4. Closet Accommodation

Thirty-five conversions to the water carriage system were carried out. Where this has been done voluntarily by the owners the Council have, when requested, paid grants up to £10; provided that where a public sewer is not available, the owners will at their own expense connect to a public sewer when it becomes available. Eight old type privies have been converted into pail closets.

## 5. Public Cleansing

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor under direct labour. Disposal is by tipping which should be "controlled". To assist in achieving full controlled tipping, small tips which are used infrequently and which cannot be supervised continually, should be, where possible, discontinued.

## 6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:—

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Informal Notices</i>	<i>Statutory Notices</i>
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts). ....	12	1	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Acts) ....	242	96	20
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council House applications ....	840	—	—
Schools ....	16	3	—
Camping Grounds (Tents, Vans, Sheds) ....	73	5	1
Water Supplies (Samples) ....	63	—	—
Water Supplies (Other Inspections) ....	42	6	1
Defective Roofs, Gutters, etc. ....	275	108	35
Ashplaces, Earth Closets ....	105	44	6
Closets converted to W.C.s ....	86	9	27
Drains, Sanitary Fittings ....	128	27	14
Cesspools and Settling Tanks ....	65	31	—
Premises connected to Sewer ....	33	8	—
Ditches, Brooks ....	46	14	—
Sewer Matters ....	25	5	2
Drain Colour Tests ....	22	7	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal ....	49	—	—
Streets, Yards, Passages ....	45	20	—
Foul Accumulations ....	46	18	1
Vermin (Rats, Bugs, etc.) ....	121	20	—
Piggeries ....	18	—	—
Dairy Farms ....	276	64	1
Milk Retailers ....	56	—	—
Milk Tests and Inquiries ....	63	14	—
Factories and Workshops ....	129	6	—
Shops and Food Stores ....	245	21	1
Meat and Food Inspection Visits ....	62	—	—
Canal Boats ....	11	—	—

Zymotic Inquiries	....	....	....	92	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools	....	....	....	14	—	—
Mortuaries	....	....	....	19	—	—
Petrol Storages	....	....	....	18	—	—
Bakehouses	....	....	....	40	7	2
Squatters Camps	....	....	....	40	—	—
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	58	41	—
TOTALS	....	....	....	<u>3475</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>111</u>

## SHOPS

## 7. Shops Act, 1934

No. employing persons	....	....	....	....	....	120
No. employing members of own family only	....	....	....	....	....	174
						<u>294</u>

Of these Shops :

No. selling food	....	....	....	....	....	196
No. registered under Food and Drugs Act 1938, Section 14)	(1) Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	....	....	....	....	11
	(2) Sale only of ice-cream	....	....	....	....	19
	(3) Preparation of preserved foods	....	....	....	....	45
No. with mechanical power and also listed as factories	....	....	....	....	....	31

It will be noted that many of the shops are small family concerns; those with mechanical power have also been listed as factories. Two hundred and forty-five inspections have been made.

Action has been taken to ensure that food shops comply with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13. New or improved washing facilities have been provided in six cases. A circular letter on Food Hygiene (see Appendix A) and stick-on labels "Wash Your Hands" were distributed to all food premises not already included in the scheme for catering establishments sponsored by the British Tourist and Holidays Board Hygiene Scheme in co-operation with the Ministries of Health and Food.

Court proceedings were taken in one case for dirty conditions, when a fine of £10 was imposed.

## 8. Ice-cream

One manufacturer has installed the plant, including indicating and recording thermometers, to comply with the regulations for the manufacture of ice-cream by the "hot mix" process. Other manufacturers use the "cold mix" process. The hygiene of these premises was generally satisfactory and was kept under close supervision.



Advice was given on the correct technique of sterilising utensils. All premises had very limited supplies and consequently irregular times of sales, which made routine sampling difficult. Five samples were submitted for the Methylene Blue Test; two were Grade 1, two were Grade 2 and one was Grade 4. The necessary investigation and action was taken where supplies were unsatisfactory.

## **9. Smoke Abatement**

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

No action was taken in 1948.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying only the proper means of burning good coal, etc., in the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing the nuisance.

## **10. Rats and Mice Destruction**

Since the 1st March, 1948, the Council exercises powers under delegation from the Cheshire County Council and operate their scheme under direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Local Authorities Circular N.S. 19). The Sanitary Inspectors act as Rodent Officers for their respective districts—one full-time rat-catcher is employed. The Council co-operate with the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee who carry out rodent destruction on agricultural premises. There were 23 contracts and the Council has 19 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required. The sewer systems in Appleton, Frodsham, Grappenhall, Halton, Helsby, Stockton Heath and Walton were test-baited and found to be all infested to a limited degree. The infected portions received two initial treatments.



(11) **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**  
**Home Office Form 572. (Revised)**

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	57 (32)	33	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. ....	77 (7)	86	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out workers' premises') ....	30 (—)	10	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>164 (39)</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>

NOTE—Numbers in brackets ( ) are number of small factories NOT employing persons and are included in the original number given.

2. Cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found.</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. by Inspector</i>	<i>H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ....	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ....	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outwork.) ....	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose. Number of Outworkers—2, employed in the making of wearing apparel. No action taken during the year.

## 12. Swimming Baths

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

## 13. 1. Camping Sites and Caravans

### 2. Housing of Imported Labour

Both these important questions are dealt with through the special combined Housing Committee (Cheshire County Council and Rural District Council); *it is hoped that their recommendations will be available soon and the necessary action taken to remedy certain bad defects.* Certain camping sites have become disused and the licences have been cancelled. The Public Health Act is used wherever possible to minimise the dangers of health, but the new Town and Country Planning Act should be of great assistance in ensuring that these matters are properly dealt with.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Close supervision was maintained on camping sites and individual moveable dwellings. No new fixed type huts have been erected during the year, although several already existing have been licensed in order to bring them under closer control. Owing to the lack of housing accommodation, a number of people have applied for licences to use caravans as permanent dwellings. This has been discouraged and such licences have only been granted where the caravan is a modern type and there are exceptional circumstances.

### CAMPING SITES

Number of licences issued by Local Authority under Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269:—

	<i>Year of 1948</i>
(a) For Camping Sites .....	7
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above Camping Sites .....	10
(c) For other individual moveable dwellings .....	25
Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1948 ....	272

### HOUSING OF IMPORTED LABOUR

“Shanties” on farms are inspected when inspections under Milk and Dairies Orders are made. Much improvement should be effected. Various agricultural hostels are excellently maintained by the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

## 14. Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs:—

	<i>Infested</i>	<i>Disinfested</i>
(a) Number of Council Houses .....	0	0
(b) Number of other Houses .....	4	4

Dwellings of all persons allocated new Council Houses are inspected for vermin before they are allowed to move into the new house. Treatment using Zaldecide/D.D.T. is carried out where necessary and follow-up inspections are made. Owing to the availability of D.D.T. and Gammexane, bug infestation is decreasing.

### 15. Schools

During the year 16 inspections of schools have been made.

In conjunction with the Schools Medical Officer of Health of the County Council, every effort has been made to protect the health of the Scholars, and all the schools in the area, where found necessary, have been disinfected during the year as a precaution against the spread of infection.

### 16. Mortuaries

The Mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

## SECTION D—HOUSING

### 1. New Houses in 1948

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority ....	88
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons	26
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>114</b>

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>New Houses erected 1948 Total per Parish</i>		<i>No. of inhabited houses in Rural District 31st Dec. 1948.</i>	
	<i>Local Authority</i>			
	<i>Private</i>	<i>Authority</i>		
Alvanley	—	—	84	
Antrobus	—	—	214	
Appleton	22	56	852	
Aston	—	—	64	
Budworth (Great)	—	—	109	
Daresbury	—	—	72	
Dutton	—	—	87	
Frodsham	2	8	1534	
Grappenhall	—	—	1752	
Halton	2	—	424	
Hatton	—	—	92	
Helsby	—	14	775	
Kingsley	—	—	339	
Manley	—	—	134	
Moore	—	—	158	
Norley	—	10	271	
Norton	—	—	42	
Preston Brook	—	—	111	
Stockton Heath	—	—	2236	
Stretton	—	—	130	
Sutton	—	—	204	
Walton	—	—	511	
Whitley	—	—	164	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>10359</b>	



## 2. Housing

The acute shortage of dwelling-houses continues, although the Council is making every effort to build as rapidly as possible. This Department has continued to investigate applications for Council Houses, where, under the Council's Points Scheme, points are allocated for Tuberculosis or other illnesses affected by housing conditions; overcrowding (based on the Overcrowding Act but excluding one living-room) and the sanitary conditions of the existing accommodation. Action to remedy defects was taken under the Public Health Acts.

Under the Rural Housing Survey, 378 houses were classified suitable for demolition only (Category 4); 1,042 were classified as requiring complete reconditioning (Category 3). In a few cases where owners have carried out extensive repairs, the Council have given undertakings that, provided the houses are maintained in a reasonable state of repair, demolition orders will not be made effective for five to ten years.

Some slight improvement was noted in the supply of materials for essential repairs, but deterioration is still proceeding at a greater rate than effective maintenance, and many of the Category 3 houses will in a few years' time become Category 4 houses. Whilst there are so many families living in rooms, any house must be considered better than none and it may be some time yet before the worst houses can be demolished.

## 3. Emergency Accommodation

The converted ex-army huts at Aston Lane Camp, Sutton, comprising 17 family units, and Townfield Lane Camp, Frodsham, comprising 8 family units, are still in use and are providing useful emergency accommodation. They are maintained in good condition. Twelve of the 17 original squatters at Aston Lane Camp have left and the huts have been allocated to other families in urgent need of accommodation or who do not qualify under the Council's Points Scheme for permanent houses.

## 4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

		1947	1948
(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ....	59	45
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein ....	63	57
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein ....	299	346
(b)	i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ....	23	18
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ....	22	32
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	142	186

- (d) i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .... Nil Nil

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### 1. Milk Supply

Considerable business is done in this area in the production of Milk. The County Council administers the licencing of T.T. and Accredited producers and carry out regular sampling of these supplies.

Samples of milk taken by this Authority are concentrated on the non-graded producer retailers, since wholesalers have their milk regularly sampled on arrival at the dairies. The samples are examined in the County Public Health Department Laboratory free of cost to this Council.

						<i>Total</i>
No. of Producers registered	....	....	....	....	....	387
No. of Retail Dairymen registered	....	....	....	....	....	84
No. of Producers of Accredited Milk	....	....	....	....	....	236
No. of Producers of T.T. Milk	....	....	....	....	....	40
No. of Cowsheds improved in 1948	....	....	....	....	....	24
No. of samples methylene blue and coliform test	....	....	....	....	....	34
No. of these samples unsatisfactory	....	....	....	....	....	11
No. of Samples examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli						14
No. of these Samples found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	....					2
No. of Adverse Reports from outside Authorities	....				....	7

Where samples are not satisfactory, follow-up inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspectors and further sampling is carried out. In certain cases on the recommendation of the Public Health Department, the producer seeks the advice and help of the Cheshire School of Agriculture at Reaseheath, under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. The advice of the Veterinary Officer (Animal Health Div. Min. Ag & F) is obtained as and when required.



## 2. Meat and Other Foods

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year, 62 visits were made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections, and 245 visits to other premises where foods are prepared and sold.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

No slaughter houses were used regularly during the year 1948; animals being slaughtered in the adjoining Urban District of Runcorn.

Post-mortem examination of pigs occasionally slaughtered at farms under Ministry of Food Special Licences has been carried out as required.

The quantity of food condemned during the year was:—

	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
Beef—home killed	97	Soya Flour	896
Beef—imported	35	Egg Powder	17
Mutton	481½	Butter	2
Pork	10	Margarine	3
Bacon	1	Jam	14
Fish	56	Apples	280
Tinned Food Products	614	Cheese	49
Dried Fruit	515	Other foods	2
		Total	3,072½

## 3. Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1948.

Samples obtained during year ended 31st December, 1948.

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Apples, Prunes and Custard	1	—
Butter	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Barley Flakes	1	—
Cocoa	1	—
Cake	1	—
Custard Flavour	1	—
Coffee	1	—



<i>Name of Sample</i>				<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Diabetic Apricot Jam	....	....		1	—
Figs	....	....		1	—
Fish Paste	....	....		5	—
Gelatine (Powdered)	....	....		2	2
Gravy Powder	....	....		1	—
Ginger (Ground)	....	....		1	—
Gin	....	....		1	—
Honey	....	....		1	—
Lemon Crush	....	....		1	—
Lemon Flavouring	....	....		1	—
Milk	....	....		44	13
Margarine	....	....		1	—
Malt Vinegar	....	....		1	—
Meat Paste	....	....		1	—
Mint in Vinegar	....	....		1	—
Malted Milk and Eggs	....	....		1	—
Orange Squash	....	....		2	1
Pepper	....	....		1	—
Prunes	....	....		1	—
Rum	....	....		1	—
Soup—Carrot	....	....		1	—
Soup Powder	....	....		1	—
Sweets	....	....		3	—
Sugar	....	....		1	—
Sausage	....	....		1	—
Semolina	....	....		1	—
Whisky	....	....		1	—
Wheat Flakes	....	....		1	—
				87	16

### Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>			<i>Remarks</i>
44	Orange Squash	90 p.p.m. Sulphur Dioxide			No action. Manufacturer could not be traced.
		620 p.p.m. Benzoic Acid	....		
56	Milk	6.6% deficient in fat	....		No action.
58	„	23.3% „	....		Cautioned.
61	„	6.6% „	....		No action.
64	„	13.3% „	....		Cautioned.
179	„	3.5% Extraneous water	....		Cautioned.
181	„	2.3% Deficient in N.F.S.			
		16.6% „ „ Fat	....		Cautioned.
182	„	3.5% „ „ N.F.S.	....		Caution.
183	„	5.9% „ „ N.F.S.	....		

### Particulars of Non-Standard Samples (cont.)

No. Sample				Result of Analysis			Remarks
184	Milk	....	....	3.5%	Deficient in	N.F.S. ....	Caution.
				3.3%	"	" Fat ....	
187	"	....	....	2.3%	"	" N.F.S. ....	No action.
				3.3%	"	" Fat ....	
190	"	....	....	3.5%	"	" N.F.S. ....	Caution.
				10.0%	"	" Fat ....	
191	"	....	....	2.3%	"	" N.F.S. ....	Caution
198	"	....	....	5.9%	"	" N.F.S. ....	No action.
200	Gelatine	....	....	Inferior quality.		Deficient in	Attention of manufac- turer drawn to analysis
				setting power		....	
110	"	....	....	"	"	"	"

#### 4. Shell-Fish (Molluscan)

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If Shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they should be well cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

#### 5. Watercress

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Whooping Cough.

#### 1. Research

When further research reveals more about the virus causing e.g., Measles and Whooping Cough, sound curative sera could be made when these diseases could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria Immunisation, Smallpox vaccination, inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

## 2. Diphtheria Immunisation

My Council's free scheme was, up to 5th July, 1948, still available so that parents and guardians could have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria; after this the free scheme continued under control of the Divisional Health Committee of the Cheshire County Council.

All children one to fifteen years of age, *preferably between the sixth and ninth month*, should be properly immunised against Diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery or at home; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result. *Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once:*

**"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."**

The following figures speak for themselves:—

### RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	29	
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1948	....	1	(Non-civilian)
Percentage of children immunised in 1939	....	58%	
Percentage of children immunised in 1948	....	82.25%	

### RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	157	
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1948	....	2	(Not immunised)
Percentage of children immunised in 1939	....	50%	
Percentage of children immunised in 1948	....	89.13%	

## 3. Care of the Blind

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the provisions of the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.



#### 4. Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to 5th July, 1948; after this further developments are being carried out under the appropriate Acts.

#### 5. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Medical Officer of Health and arrangements are made by the former for specialist and/or hospital treatment as required.

#### 6. Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.

#### 7. Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1948:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Diagnosed</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever .....	24	11	—
Diphtheria .....	1	1*	—
Erysipelas .....	7	2	—
Pneumonia .....	9	1	—
Measles .....	200	2	—
Whooping Cough .....	131	0	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	0	0	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	2	1	—

\* Non-civilian transferred to Military Hospital.

An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age groups is given below:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases at all ages</i>	<i>Un- der 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 to over</i>
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	1	1	1	15	2	—	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1
Pneumonia	9	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	4	1
Measles.....	200	7	10	26	25	21	101	5	—	5	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	131	11	21	13	15	11	52	4	—	1	1	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomye- litis .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	375	18	32	41	41	34	169	12	—	13	3	10	2

Diphtheria Antitoxin was provided free to Medical Practitioners and could be obtained at any time from the local Laboratories of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies Ltd., or in great emergency from Dutton Isolation Hospital up to the 5th July, 1948; after this date the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee arranged that all General Practitioners were notified as follows through the Executive Councils:—

“The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee will be responsible for making supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin available for General Practitioners.

“Supplies will be kept at the following Hospitals (as it applies to the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts) and may be obtained on application as shown:—

Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital:	The Matron
Dutton Isolation Hospital:	The Matron

“Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case, or they may, in emergency, obtain it from any pharmacist holding a stock and forward the account to this Committee.

“Stock held by Hospitals or Practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply, i.e., the Pharmacist, Chester Royal Infirmary. No charge will be made for Antitoxin supplied under these arrangements.”

*In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in Diphtheria.*

*N.B.: Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.*

All swabs were examined at the City Laboratory, 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

After 5th July, 1948, General Practitioners were informed that they could, as required, obtain, e.g., Lymph for Vaccination against Smallpox (nearest Public Health Laboratory), and other types of vaccine and sera (Divisional Health Office, Town Hall, Runcorn) as agreed to by the Ministry of Health.



## RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

## 8. Total Deaths, 1948

<i>Cause of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes	....	....	....	....	....	205	174
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
5. Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	....	4	5
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
9. Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
10. Measles	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
13. Cancer of b.cav. and Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	....	....	....	....	....	3	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	9	3
15. Cancer of breast	....	....	....	....	....	0	12
16. Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	....	....	22	19
17. Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	....	....	....	....	....	16	27
19. Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	....	68	43
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	....	....	....	5	7
21. Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	15	7
22. Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	11	5
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	1	4
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	2	0
25. Diarrhœa, under 2 years	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
26. Appendicitis	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	3	8
28. Nephritis	....	....	....	....	....	7	2
29. Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
31. Premature Births	....	....	....	....	....	4	3
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	5	4
33. Suicide	....	....	....	....	....	3	0
34. Road traffic accidents	....	....	....	....	....	5	1
35. Other violent causes	....	....	....	....	....	5	6
36. All other causes	....	....	....	....	....	13	10

					Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{	Total ....	....	....	10	9
		Legitimate ....	....	....	10	8
		Illegitimate ....	....	....	—	1
Live Births ....	{	Total ....	....	....	290	236
		Legitimate ....	....	....	283	224
		Illegitimate ....	....	....	7	12
Stillbirths ....	{	Total ....	....	....	5	5
		Legitimate ....	....	....	4	5
		Illegitimate ....	....	....	1	—

POPULATION.....(Estimated) 34,230

Comparability Factor not available for 1948.

# BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	Runcorn Rural District	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>					
<b>BIRTHS—</b>					
Live ....	15.37	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still ....	0.29	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
<b>DEATHS—</b>					
All causes ....	11.08	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ....	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis ....	0.29	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza ....	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox ....	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ....	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ....	0.47	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)</b>					
Typhoid Fever ....	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ....	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever ....	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever ....	0.67	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough ....	3.83	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria ....	0.03	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas ....	0.2	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox ....	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ....	5.81	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia ....	0.29	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>					
<b>DEATHS—</b>					
All causes under 1 year of age	19	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ....	1.9	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births</i>					
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)</b>					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	3.73	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
<i>No. 140</i> <i>Abortion with Sepsis</i> 0.11	<i>No. 141</i> <i>Abortion without Sepsis</i> 0.05	<i>No. 147</i> <i>Puerperal Infections</i> 0.13	<i>Nos. 142-6 148-150</i> <i>Other</i> 0.73	
<hr/>				
Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-44 in England and Wales :—				
<i>No. 140 with Sepsis</i> 9		<i>No. 141 without Sepsis</i> 4		

## 9. Tuberculosis

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

Proper food (see remarks in Introduction), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to Sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories. Close liaison is kept with District T.B. Officers.

*In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly "pasteurised", failing this, heat-treated properly in the home.*

*With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions, and food for the people: these, with heat treatment of milk (e.g., pasteurisation or proper heat treatment in the home) will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat treatment of milk not only kills the Tubercle Bacillus but other germs causing disease.*

Particulars of the 24 new cases of Tuberculosis and of the 11 deaths from the disease in the area during 1948:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4 .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4-14 .....	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	1
15-24 .....	3	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
25-34 .....	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
35-44 .....	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	—
45-54 .....	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55-64 .....	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ....	8	7	3	6	5	5	—	1

The 11 Deaths were Notified Cases.



Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Cheshire County Council Public Health Laboratory, 24, Nicholas Street, Chester. (Telephone: Chester 2305).

During the year 1948 the following sputums were dealt with:—

Total number of sputums: 68 (Negative 60, Positive 8).

Tuberculosis Cases on Register. Comparative Rates.

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1940	32,790	52	38	31	37	158	4.81
1941	—	61	42	30	37	170	
1942	—	67	47	31	43	188	
1943	—	66	49	31	42	188	
1944	—	65	53	37	47	202	
1945	31,710	71	53	32	41	197	6.21
1946	32,760	68	44	34	34	180	5.49
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1948	34,230	59	44	28	33	164	4.79

The Ministry of Health have carried out intensive research in the use of Streptomycin in the treatment of Tuberculosis, especially for T.B. Meningitis and Military Tuberculosis—as a result satisfactory results as regards cure are being obtained at certain hospitals. further developments are expected as soon as this drug becomes more available.

### 10. Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

AGE	-30		30-50		50-70		over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Bladder ....	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Breast ....	—	—	—	3	—	5	—	4	12
Genital Organs:									
Prostate ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus ....	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Liver ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Kidney ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lungs ....	—	—	2	1	7	—	1	2	13
Neck ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Rectum ....	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	8
Remainder of Intestinal Tract:									
Oesophagus ....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Colon ....	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	9
Stomach ....	—	—	—	1	6	1	2	1	11
Throat and Mouth ....	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	5
Cancer of all other sites....	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Male Deaths ....	1	—	2	—	20	—	11	—	
Female Deaths ....	—	—	—	8	—	12	—	16	70

The 70 deaths from Cancer give a rate of 2.04 per 1,000 of population, or 18.6% of total number (379) deaths reported during year.

## 11. Cancer (Cancer Act, 1939)

Up to 5th July, 1948; after this date arrangements as undertaken over by Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

An amended extract from the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, Annual Report on this matter which reads as follows:—

“On 1st August, 1946, the Council’s arrangements in accordance with their Scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939, came into force and continued until 5/7/48. These were as follows:—

(1) The Council will provide all necessary facilities so that every person in the County who is, or is suspected to be suffering from cancer may obtain advice, and that every such person who is found to be suffering may obtain adequate treatment. In particular the Council will provide the facilities set out in the following paragraphs.

(2) The Council will, by agreement with the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation (hereinafter called the “Organisation”) and with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester (hereinafter called the “Christie Hospital”) provide from the resources of the Organisation and of the Christie Hospital the appropriate treatment for all persons in the County suffering from cancer.

(3) The Council will provide facilities for consultation and treatment at the following Hospitals co-operating with the Organisation and with the Christie Hospital:—

Hospitals at which all forms of treatment will be provided:—

Chester Royal Infirmary.

Liverpool Radium Institute, and

Royal Liverpool United Hospital.

(4) The Council will arrange for the attendance of consultants at any of the above places either with themselves or through the medium of the Organisation or the Christie Hospital as the case may be.

(5) The Council will arrange with the approval of the Ministry of Health for accommodation to be available for such patients as require nursing and palliative treatment in the last stages of irremediable disease.

(6) The Council will make arrangements through the Organisation or the Christie Hospital, as the case may be, for the transfer of such patients as require highly specialised treatment to such special centres as are or may be approved by the Minister of Health.

(7) The Council will, by agreement with:—

The Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation,

The Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute,  
Manchester,



arrange for the examination of *pathological* specimens in all cases where such examination is considered necessary for purposes of diagnosis and treatment, and will collaborate with the Organisation or the Christie Hospital, as the case may be, in the maintenance of Pathological Registers including such specimens.

(8) In addition to the general arrangements set out above, the Council will provide for the diagnosis and treatment of any individual case at such Hospital or other Institution as the Minister may approve."

*Early* Diagnosis and treatment is *most* important in this serious disease.

## 12. Isolation Hospital Report, 1948

	Urban	Rural	Total
No. of Patients in Hospital at 1st Jan., 1948	1	—	1
No. of Patients admitted during 1948 ....	81	23	104
No. of Patients discharged during 1948 ....	74	22	96
No. of Patients died in Hospital during 1948	—	—	—
No. of Patients in Hospital at end of 1948	7	1	8

### Details of cases admitted during 1948:—

Admitted as	Final Diagnosis	Urban	Rural	Total
Diphtheria ....	Diphtheria ....	2	—	2
" ....	Vincent's Angina ....	1	1	2
" ....	Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis ....	1	1	2
" ....	Acute Follicular Tonsillitis and Diphtheria Carrier ....	3	—	3
Diphtheria Carrier ....	Diphtheria Carrier ....	1	—	1
" " ....	Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis ....	1	1	2
?Diphtheria ....	Glandular Fever ....	—	1	1
" ....	Acute Follicular Tonsillitis and Peritonsillar Abscess ....	—	1	1
" ....	Acute Follicular Tonsillitis and Diphtheria Carrier ....	3	—	3
Scarlet Fever ....	Scarlet Fever ....	65	11	76
" ....	Erythema Simplex ....	1	—	1
" ....	Rubella ....	1	—	1
" ....	Measles ....	1	—	1
Measles ....	Measles ....	—	1	1
" ....	Measles and Enteritis (Acute Catarrhal) ....	—	1	1
?Poliomyelitis ....	Acute Rheumatism ....	—	1	1
Erysipelas ....	Erysipelas ....	1	2	3
Pertussis and Broncho-Pneumonia ....	Pertussis and Broncho-Pneumonia ....	—	1	1
	TOTAL ....	81	23	104

Average length of stay in Hospital: 28 days.



## ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTORS

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, we beg to report as follows:—

Eleven Canal Boats were inspected during the year 1948, at the Stockton Heath, Preston Brook and Norton Quays.

There were no contraventions and no infectious diseases were reported on the Boats, whilst they were in our area. Very few Boats tied up at the wharves in this area during the year.

The number of persons occupying the boats inspected were

Males	....	12	Females	....	7	Children	....	6
Total nett adults					....	19		

The number allowed by the Certificates was 33.

### SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT

Taking into consideration the conditions created by the shortage of housing accommodation, the general health of the community is satisfactory for the moment.

When the various matters recommended in this Report are put into effect, health (mental and physical) should greatly improve, provided *all* concerned co-operate.

*Proper housing conditions, food and further health education are urgently required.*

**E. N. H. GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts.

Medical Superintendent, Isolation Hospital, Dutton  
(up to 5th July, 1948).

Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn.

Divisional School Medical Officer, Runcorn.

P.S.—PLEASE KEEP THIS REPORT FOR EASY REFERENCE  
*AND READ IT CAREFULLY.*

# APPENDIX "A"

## RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(issued to all Food Premises generally)

Public Health Department,  
Castle Park, Frodsham,  
Via Warrington.

### FOOD HYGIENE

Your attention is drawn to the high standard of hygiene required in the handling of Food for human consumption. For your guidance the chief requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and other Acts are set out below:—

1. REGISTRATION. Premises for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream, or the preparation of manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food must be registered by the Local Authority.
2. EVERY FOOD ROOM must not communicate directly with sanitary conveniences, dustbins, ashpits or sleeping rooms.—Shall be maintained in a proper state of repair, be adequately ventilated; shall be painted, cleaned as required, and no refuse or filth shall be allowed to accumulate therein.
3. CLEANLINESS shall be observed by persons with regard to articles, apparatus, themselves and clothing.
4. WASHING FACILITIES should be conveniently sited between the sanitary accommodation and shop or work room.—There shall be provided in or within reasonable distance of food premises, WASHING BASINS, A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF SOAP, TOWELS, CLEAN WATER BOTH HOT AND COLD (nail brushes are also advised) (Soap permits are available from the Food Office; other non-rated liquid cleansers are also available.)
5. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION must be provided or be readily available for persons employed in or about the premises.
6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Persons suffering from Infectious Disease must not handle food. Those who have been in direct contact with such cases should discontinue handling food until advised to carry on by the Medical Officer of Health or by their own Doctor. Staff suffering from any serious illness or persistent diarrhoea should consult their own Doctor.
7. PERSONAL HYGIENE. It is most important that handlers of food should keep their hands *and nails* clean. Hands should be washed after each time the W.C. is used. Care should be taken that discharges from the nose, throat and sores do not contaminate food. Cuts and sores should be adequately covered. See your Doctor if necessary. (If these simple precautions were carried out most food poisoning would be prevented.)
8. UNSOUND FOOD, or doubtful food should not be sold. The Sanitary Inspector will examine any such food when requested and issue condemnation certificates where necessary.

9. STORAGE OF FOODS. As far as practicable foods should be in sealed containers, meats and fish are best kept in refrigerators, certain other food such as dried eggs and milk powders require cool, dry conditions. All foods should be protected from contamination by rats, mice, flies, insect pests, cats and dogs, which may transmit disease. (Advice on extermination of rats, mice and insects is free from this department and the destruction of rats and mice can be carried out at cost price.)
10. REFUSE STORAGE. Refuse should be stored in suitable sanitary ashbins with properly fitting lids. The outside area to be clean, and the refuse removed and disposed of frequently. (The Council undertake the removal of trades refuse at reasonable charges.)

Your co-operation is requested to obtain the highest possible standard of food hygiene, and in particular to inculcate this standard in employed staff. This department will be glad to advise on any problems arising out of the above.

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Medical Officer of Health.







